

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper which contains the food product; ~~; said inner wrapper capable of transmitting heat or steam to~~

an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;

at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, and a portion of the outer package is melted to permit removal of the inner wrapper from the outer package during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven.

2. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a sheet of a heat-insulating material, attached to an inner part of the outer package.

3. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a continuous web of flexible material, common to a plurality of said products

each including said outer package and said inner wrapper.

4. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a sheet of a size equal to or smaller than that of the outer package.

5. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made of paper.

6. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner wrapper comprises at least one area having two sheets of material, and wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material is inserted between said two sheets of material.

7. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the layer of heat-concentrating material is applied as a coating onto the sheet of insulating material.

8. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said heat-concentrating material is an oxide of aluminum.

9. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is attached onto the substrate by means of an adhesive.

10. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the sheet of insulating material is attached to the outer package by means of an adhesive.

11. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is made of polyethylene and the inner wrapper is made of paper.

12. (Previously Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package presents at least one weld-line of a predetermined strength, wherein said at least one

weld-line facilitates the opening of the outer package during heating.

13. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material further comprises:

at least one strip of heat-concentrating material.

14. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one strip of heat-concentrating material is applied on said outer package.

15. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper made of paper which contains the food product; ~~; said inner wrapper capable of transmitting heat or steam to~~

an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper;

at least one layer of a heat-concentrating material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of heat-concentrating material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, and a portion of the outer package is melted to permit removal of the inner wrapper from the outer package during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven.